Australian Bureau of Statistics

1232.0 - Information Paper -- Census of Population and Housing: Link Between Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition and Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), 2006

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Summary

About this Release

This information paper presents details of a quantitative link between the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition and the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition. The aim of the link file is to facilitate the comparison of data on occupations from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

The 2006 Census of Population and Housing, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 8 August 2006, collected data on a range of social and demographic topics, including the occupation of all employed persons aged 15 years and over. The principal statistical output on the occupation of employed persons was classified according to the ANZSCO which replaced the ASCO Second Edition used for 1996 and 2001 Censuses.

The link file is necessary because of significant structural differences between ANZSCO and ASCO Second Edition. The link was developed by coding census responses to questions for occupation to both ANZSCO and ASCO Second Edition, using a specially developed coding index. The paper explains the nature of the link and provides a set of summary tables for comparative analysis showing distribution of ASCO Second Edition major groups across ANZSCO major groups, and vice versa, by sex and state and territory.

Also provided are detailed links between ANZSCO and ASCO Second Edition at the occupation level for each state and territory, and for total Australia, containing frequencies.

For further information about the summary and detailed tables, please email: social.classifications@abs.gov.au

See 1220.0

Main Differences between ANZSCO and ASCO Second Edition

MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ANZSCO AND ASCO SECOND EDITION

SKILL LEVEL

While the classification criteria for ANZSCO are essentially the same as those used for ASCO Second Edition, the application of the skill level criterion has changed. In ASCO Second Edition, the skill level required for entry to an occupation was considered. In ANZSCO, it is the skill level required for competent performance of the set of tasks associated with the occupation which is used.

In ASCO Second Edition each of the nine major groups was assigned to one of five broad skill levels. In ANZSCO, the major groups were designed by considering a combination of skill level and skill specialisation. Consequently, each major group in ANZSCO is not necessarily homogenous in terms of skill level.

The use of both skill level and skill specialisation to define the major groups in ANZSCO compared to just skill level in ASCO Second Edition has resulted in major groups which are more intuitively appealing and useful than their ASCO Second Edition predecessors. Accordingly, there have been changes to the way some occupations are classified in ANZSCO.

Associate Professionals
This ASCO Second Edition major group has been discontinued in ANZSCO. These occupations have been spread across a number of ANZSCO major groups. The major changes are:

Science, Engineering and Related Associate Professionals, ASCO Second Edition Sub-Major Group 31, are classified to ANZSCO Major Group 3 Technicians and Trades Workers, Sub-Major Group 31 Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians.

Finance Associate Professionals, ASCO Second Edition Minor Group 321, are classified to ANZSCO Major Group 2 Professionals, Minor Group 222 Financial Brokers and Dealers, and Investment Advisers.

Office Managers, ASCO Second Edition Unit Group 3291, and Project and Program Administrators, ASCO Second Edition Unit Group 3292, are classified to ANZSCO Major Group 5 Clerical and Administrative Workers, Sub-Major Group 511 Office Managers and Program Administrators.

Managing Supervisors (Sales and Service), ASCO Second Edition Sub-Major Group 33, are mainly classified to ANZSCO Major Group 1 Managers, Sub-Major Group 14 Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers.

Health and Welfare Associate Professionals, ASCO Second Edition Sub-Major Group 34, are classified to ANZSCO Major Group 4 Community and Personal Service Workers, Sub-Major Group 41 Health and Welfare Support Workers.

Clerical, sales and service occupations
ASCO Second Edition Major Group 5 Advanced Clerical and Service Workers, Major Group 6 Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, and Major Group 8 Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers have been disaggregated and reorganised in ANZSCO into three intuitively appealing major groups.

There is now one major group which covers all clerical occupations - Major Group 5 Clerical and Administrative Workers, one major group which covers all sales occupations - Major Group 6 Sales Workers, and one major group which covers all service workers - Major

Group 4 Community and Personal Service Workers.

Information and community technology (ICT) occupations
ANZSCO identifies a greater number of ICT unit groups and occupations compared to ASCO Second Edition.

In ANZSCO, there are 13 ICT unit groups and 36 ICT occupations. This compares to three unit groups and nine occupations in ASCO Second Edition.

Apprentices, trainees and supervisors
ASCO Second Edition identified a number of apprentice, trainee and supervisory occupations. ANZSCO does not separately identify such occupations.

In ANZSCO, apprentice and trainee occupations are classified together with their 'parent' or future occupation. Supervisory occupations are classified together with the occupations whose tasks they supervise.

Other changes
Other changes reflected in the ANZSCO structure are the result of the emergence and decline of occupations in the Australian labour market. The increased significance of various industry sectors to the economy, in particular the service and information technology sectors, has led to the emergence of a number of new occupations. Conversely, technological and structural changes in the Australian work force have also resulted in the decline of some occupations.

Scope of Census Occupation Data

SCOPE OF CENSUS OCCUPATION DATA

In the 2006 Census, data on occupations were collected from persons aged 15 years and over whose labour force status was classified as employed. Persons were defined as employed if they:

- worked for payment or profit, or as an unpaid helper in a family business, during the week prior to census night, or
- had a job from which they were on leave or otherwise temporarily absent, or
- were on strike or stood down temporarily.

Occupation data were not collected for persons who were unemployed or not in the labour force.

Persons were classified as unemployed if they did not have a job but were actively looking for work and available to start work.

Persons aged 15 years and over who were neither employed nor unemployed were classified as not in the labour force. This included persons who were retired, pensioners and persons engaged solely in home duties.

CENSUS OCCUPATION QUESTIONS

Five questions on the census form (questions 38, 39, 40, 42 and 43 shown below) were

used to assist in coding of occupation for the 2006 Census.

Q38. In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?

Give full title.

For example: Childcare Aide, Maths Teacher, Pastry Cook, Tanning Machine Operator, Apprentice Toolmaker, Sheep and Wheat Farmer.

For public servants, provide official designation and occupation.

For armed services personnel, provide rank and occupation.

Q39. What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in the occupation reported in Question 38?

Give full details.

For example: looking after children at a day care centre, teaching secondary school students, making cakes and pastries, operating leather tanning machine, learning to make and repair tools and dies, running a sheep and wheat farm.

For managers, provide main activities managed.

Q40. For the main job held last week, what was the employer's business name?

For self-employed persons, write name of business.

For teachers, write name of school.

Q42. Which best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person works?

Mark one box only.

- Manufacturing
- Wholesaling
- Retailing (incl. Take-aways)
- Accommodation
- Pubs, cafes and restaurants
- Road freight transport
- House construction
- Health service
- Community care service
- Other - please specify

Examples of 'other - please specify' are: repairs and maintenance, education, agriculture, finance, telecommunications service.

Q43. What are the main goods produced or main services proved by the employer's business?

Describe as fully as possible, using two words or more.

For example: wheat and sheep, bus charter, health insurance, primary school education, civil engineering consultancy service, house building, steel pipes.